

## **History**

Tennessee has long been recognized as having one of the finest and most diversified state park systems in the United States. Our state parks offer a wide variety of natural, recreational, and cultural opportunities for our visitors. We encourage all of our visitors to benefit from the use of our facilities and resources. Yet as visitation and usage increases so does wear and tear on our facilities and resources. And while revenue earned from user fees for camping, golf, hotel & cabin accommodations, etc., go to the general fund to offset operational costs, these revenues are not available to fund the necessary maintenance of our facilities. To address this situation, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, with support from the Governor and the General Assembly, implemented the Tennessee State Park Access Fee Program. The Access Fee Program is a self-supporting program designed to provide a dedicated fund for the maintenance and upkeep of Tennessee's state park facilities.

## **How Does the Access Fee Program Work?**

All visitors are required to purchase and display an access fee pass on their vehicle while in one of our state parks. Daily passes are \$3.00 per vehicle or Multi-Visit Passes (MVPs) are available for \$30.00 per vehicle. Overnight guests (campers, hotel & cabins) will pay a reduced rate of \$.50 per person per night (\$1.00 nightly minimum per room, cabin, or campsite). Overnight guests will pay their access fee at registration. ***All revenue collected from access fees stays within state parks and goes to a dedicated fund for the maintenance of park facilities and resources***

## **How do visitors pay their access fees?**

Visitors will pay their access fees by various methods:

- Day users can purchase daily passes at self service pay stations located conveniently within each park
- Overnight guests will pay at registration..
- Multi-Visit Passes can be purchased at the park office/visitor center at participating parks.
- [Multi-Visit Passes may be purchased through the mail using the attached order form.](#)

## **What About Multi-Visit Passes?**

Multi-Visit Passes (MVP's) are a great way to show support for Tennessee State Parks with the added bonus of user convenience. MVP's cost \$30.00 and are valid from January 1 through December 31 of each year. They are assigned to a specific vehicle and are designed to hang from the inside rearview mirror. After your first MVP purchase, you may purchase additional MVP's for your household for \$10.00 per vehicle. The MVP will cover the access fees for the all of the occupants of the vehicle to which it is assigned. This includes access fees at campgrounds, cabins, & hotels as well as day use access fees. MVP's make great gifts for your family and friends.

## **Is Anyone Exempt from Access Fees?**

There are some exemptions to our access fees:

- Every Wednesday is a free day for day use activities.
- Diners in park restaurants do not need a park pass.
- Vehicles at state park golf courses do not need to display a pass because an access fee is included with every greens fee.
- School groups on field trips are exempt.

## **Where will the money go?**

Thanks to the special legislation that created the Access Fee Program, all money raised by this program will stay within the park system. The program will be self-supporting and will pay for, or has paid for all the equipment necessary for

the collection of access fees statewide. The ongoing purpose and goal of the program will be to provide a dedicated source of funds for the upkeep and maintenance of our park facilities and resources.

**For More information About Access Fees Contact:**

**Tennessee State Parks  
Access Fee Program  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, L&C Tower  
401 Church Street  
Nashville, TN 37243-0446**

Or call

**1-888-TNPARKS**

Check our Web site at:

**[www.tnstateparks.com](http://www.tnstateparks.com)**

**For Reservations  
Call 1-866 TENNPKS**